

county of Durham, in shallow water on a sand-bank, nearly (if not) dead, and he conveyed it to the neighbouring village of Seaton Carew, where it was shown to many persons.

It was, at first, considered to be the Vaagmör (*Gymnetrus arcticus*); but from its greater size, being 14 feet 7 inches long, it was shown to be a larger species.

Mr. Tristram, F.L.S., saw it, and made it out to be *G. Banksii*.

I do not know *that* species, which may probably be synonymous with *G. Grillii*, found in Iceland, or with an intermediate species known to Scandinavian zoologists.

The fish, I was informed, was sent to Leeds to be sold and exhibited; but it never was shown (as far as I can learn, and I was anxious to see it) at Stockton-on-Tees. When taken, it was in good condition, and its colours very bright.

The *Gymnetri* are too rare on our coasts to permit a revision of the species, which is much required.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HOGG.

Norton House, Stockton-on-Tees,  
April 11, 1866.

*Notes on the Dactylethræ.*

To Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S.

DEAR SIR,—I saw in the 'Annals of Natural History' an account by you of the *Dactylethræ*.

It is difficult here to tell how much is known on any subject, and therefore your notices of South African animals from time to time have proved of great service to me.

I think, however, that your impressions as to the *Dactylethræ* are not quite correct. I am inclined to think that the beardless, spurless specimens are females; and you can judge from my notes.

*Description of Specimen caught in the Koonup River, near the Mancazana Old Post, Fort Beaufort District, S.A.*

From extremity of mouth to anus  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches; from second inner toe, without claw, to anus, 5 inches; across the chest at armpit  $4\frac{7}{8}$  inches; round the thigh  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; length of forearm  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches; greatest width across the belly  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches; distance between eyes  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch.

*Colour*.—Ochraceous green on head; olive-green on back, with darker leopard-like spots in rings of heterogeneous shape. Fore legs ochraceous olive-green; hind legs the same, but with a reddish-brown tinge, terminating towards the toes in a rich sienna-brown. Three inner toes armed with black nails; web of feet ochraceous. *No spurs; where the spurs would be, there was a slightly prominent projection.* Anus orange-pink. Belly white, with a pale creamy tinge. Fore legs reddish ochraceous towards their extremities. Lower extremity and hind legs of a dirty salmon-colour, the last joint of the leg and the foot being on the inner side spotted with minute yellow dots. To-

wards the anus on the under surface there was a silvery line, with pale bluish-grey spots.

*No beard under the eyes.* The general form of the glands resembles little quilts in the skin: those towards the anus were roundish and tuberculous, and form a little triangular row immediately above the vent; on the belly they were entirely linear. The inner row on the dorsal surface bifurcates into two at the throat, the outer row approaching nearer the eye, and the two inner receding towards the centre. On the dorsal line between the three lateral rows are two minute semituberculate linear glands. In other respects the description accords with yours in the 'Annals.'

Female specimen, with nearly mature ova. Caught in February.

In the Baaken's River, near Port Elizabeth, the commonest kind corresponds to your grey specimens, and is small in size. I think I have seen the same here, but have never minutely examined them. My specimens are in the Museum at Port Elizabeth.

I have seen a specimen similar to that described, only larger and of a much paler and yellower colour, in the Eland's River at Uitenhage. It was feeding on a dead baboon; but I could not capture it. I caught, the other day, a smaller specimen than that described, with very faint spots; but the glands were very large, and almost all quite round. I unfortunately lost it, or I would have described it.

The *Dactylethrae* are called by the Dutch "Platanas," and by the Kafirs "Izeyla." They live at the bottom of muddy pools, or "zeekoe gattes," as they are called here, and are exceedingly voracious; they and the crabs give the fisherman a deal of trouble, by taking his baits when fishing for eels. They are exceedingly slimy and disgusting to handle, and are usually found in deep water. It is amusing to see them rise to take breath; they just pop their heads out, and you hear a piff, as of a jet of gas.

Mr. R. Hallack, of Port Elizabeth, told me that he was much surprised, one wet season, to see numbers about his yard, as there was no pool or stream in the neighbourhood; and he could not conceive where they came from, as he had never seen them before there; nor has he seen them since.

I trust I shall shortly be able to send you some more information. I know nothing about their larvæ. Hoping that this may prove of some interest,

Believe me, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

J. P. MANSSELL VEALE.

Eland's Drift, near Adelaide.

March 6, 1866.

*On the Occurrence of Bones of Marmots near Graz.*

By Professor OSCAR SCHMIDT.

In the immediate vicinity of Graz, on the Rainerkogel, about 200 feet above the Mur, an old Marmot-dwelling has been discovered, with the skeletons of four individuals, belonging to three generations.